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RESOLUTION ADOPTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY

[*on the report of the Third Committee (A/54/595)*]

54/123. Cooperatives in social development

The General Assembly,

Recalling its resolutions 47/90 of 16 December 1992 and 49/155 of 23 December 1994 and its resolution 51/58 of 12 December 1996 in which it requested the Secretary-General to ascertain, in cooperation with the Committee for the Promotion and Advancement of Cooperatives, the desirability and feasibility of elaborating United Nations guidelines aimed at creating a supportive environment for the development of cooperatives,

Welcoming the report of the Secretary-General on the status and role of cooperatives in the light of new economic and social trends[1] and the draft guidelines aimed at creating a supportive environment for the development of cooperatives annexed thereto,

Recognizing that cooperatives, in their various forms, are becoming a major factor of economic and social development by promoting the fullest possible participation in the development process of women and all population groups, including youth, older persons and people with disabilities, and are increasingly providing an effective and affordable mechanism for meeting people's needs for basic social services,

[1] A/54/57.

Recognizing also the important contribution and potential of all forms of cooperatives to the follow-up to the World Summit for Social Development, held at Copenhagen from 6 to 12 March 1995, the Fourth World Conference on Women, held at Beijing from 4 to 15 September 1995, the second United Nations Conference on Human Settlements (Habitat II), held at Istanbul, Turkey, from 3 to 14 June 1996, and the World Food Summit, held at Rome from 13 to 17 November 1996, including their five-year reviews,

1. *Takes note with appreciation* of the report of the Secretary-General on the status and role of cooperatives in the light of new economic and social trends;[1]

2. *Welcomes* the elaboration of the draft guidelines aimed at creating a supportive environment for the development of cooperatives;[2]

3. *Requests* the Secretary-General to seek views from Governments on the draft guidelines and provide, if necessary, a revised version for adoption;

4. *Urges* Governments, relevant international organizations and specialized agencies, in collaboration with national and international cooperative organizations, to give due consideration to the role and contribution of cooperatives in the implementation of and follow-up to the outcomes of the World Summit for Social Development, the Fourth World Conference on Women, the second United Nations Conference on Human Settlements (Habitat II) and the World Food Summit, including their five-year reviews, by, *inter alia:*

(*a*) Utilizing and developing fully the potential and contribution of cooperatives for the attainment of social development goals, in particular the eradication of poverty, the generation of full and productive employment and the enhancement of social integration;

(*b*) Encouraging and facilitating the establishment and development of cooperatives, including taking measures aimed at enabling people living in poverty or belonging to vulnerable groups to engage on a voluntary basis in the creation and development of cooperatives;

(*c*) Taking appropriate measures aimed at creating a supportive and enabling environment for the development of cooperatives by, *inter alia*, developing an effective partnership between Governments and the cooperative movement;

5. *Invites* Governments, relevant international organizations, specialized agencies and local, national and international cooperative organizations to continue to observe the International Day of Cooperatives annually, on the first Saturday of July, as proclaimed by the General Assembly in its resolution 47/90;

6. *Requests* the Secretary-General, in cooperation with the relevant United Nations and other international organizations, to render support to Member States, as appropriate, in their efforts to create a supportive environment for the development of cooperatives, including through the organization of workshops and seminars at the national, subregional and regional levels;

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[2] Ibid., annex.

7. *Also requests* the Secretary-General to prepare, in consultation with Member States and the relevant United Nations organizations and international organizations, a report on the implementation of the present resolution and to submit it, through the Economic and Social Council, to the General Assembly at its fifty-sixth session.

83rd plenary meeting
17 December 1999